

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

SAM-01 /099 W

----- 045423

R 041056Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 998

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 1594

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, DA, EEC

SUBJECT: DANISH PRIME MINISTER WANTS DENMARK TO STAY IN EC WITH
OR WITHOUT UK

SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN IN A PRESS ARTICLE RE-
ITERATED HOPES THAT THE UK WILL VOTE TO STAY IN THE EC AND RE-
NEWED HIS PLEDGE FOR A DANISH REFERENDUM SHOULD THE UK OPT OUT.
HE ADDED, HOWEVER, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS
LIKELY TO RECOMMEND THAT DENMARK STAYS IN THE EC REGARDLESS OF
THE BRITISH DECISION. END SUMMARY.

1. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN IN AN
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ALMOST FULL (TABLOID) PAGE ARTICLE IN THE LABOR DAILY AKTUEL

JUNE 3 REVIEWED THE SITUATION AROUND THE BRITISH REFERENDUM. JORGENSEN REPEATED THAT HE WOULD GREET A BRITISH DECISION TO STAY WITH JOY AND RELIEF.

2. THE PM EXPECTED THAT A POSITIVE BRITISH VOTE WOULD RESULT IN RESUMPTION OF FULL BRITISH EC PARTICIPATION WHILE A NEGATIVE VOTE WOULD CREATE INSTABILITY AND DANGER OF EUROPE RETURNING TO RIVALRY AMONG LEADING COUNTRIES.

3. THE PM REITERATED HIS PLEDGE TO HOLD A NEW DANISH REFERENDUM SHOULD THE UK OPT OUT, WITH THE RESERVATION THAT SUCH A REFERENDUM CANNOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE FUTURE BRITISH-EC RELATIONSHIP IS CLARIFIED.

4. ALREADY NOW, THE PM ADDED, IT IS CERTAIN THAT A BRITISH DEPARTURE FROM THE EC WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE TRADE, MONETARY, AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS FOR DENMARK, WHETHER DENMARK STAYS IN OR FOLLOWS THE UK OUT.

5. EVALUATING EVENTUAL DANISH INTERESTS, THE PM CONCLUDED THAT QUOTE IT IS MY VIEW THAT MUCH SPEAKS FOR OUR EVENTUALLY RECOMMENDING THAT DENMARK REMAINS IN THE EC END QUOTE.

6. THE PM QUALIFIED THIS VIEW WITH REFERENCE TO THE UNCERTAIN CONTENT OF POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TRADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE EC. RE-CREATION OF THE EFTA WAS UNREALISTIC, HE SAID, AND DANISH INDUSTRIAL EXPORT CONDITIONS IN BOTH EUROPEAN AND OVERSEAS MARKET WOULD REMAIN UNCERTAIN. WITH REGARD TO FARM EXPORTS, DENMARK WOULD LOSE THE SAFETY NET PROVIDED BY THE CAP.

7. THE PM ALSO QUESTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUED DANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE MONETARY (SNAKE) COOPERATION IF DENMARK LEFT THE EC. THIS ALONE, THE PM SAID, MADE IT IRRESPONSIBLE TO RECOMMEND DANISH DEPARTURE FROM THE EC UNTIL THE ALTERNATIVE MONETARY CONDITIONS WERE KNOWN.

8. FOLLOWING BRIEF REFERENCES ALSO TO THE GENERAL POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS SHOULD THE UK LEAVE THE EC, PM JORGENSEN SUMMARIZED HIS VIEWS (A) THAT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR DENMARK THAT BRITIAN VOTES YES TO THE EC, (B) THAT A DANISH REFERENDUM UNCLASSIFIED

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CANNOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN CLARIFIED, AND (C) THAT THERE ARE MANY GOOD REASONS FOR DENMARK TO REMAIN IN THE EC DESPITE BRITISH DEPARTURE.

9. COMMENT: DANISH GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN ON THE EC ISSUE, PARTICULARLY MARKETS MINISTER NORGAARD, HAVE REPEATEDLY EMHASIZED THEIR COMMITMENT TO HOLD ANOTHER DANISH REFERENDUM SHOULD THE UK OPT OUT. THIS FIRST TIME, HOWEVER, THAT GOVERNMENT

RECOMMENDATION FOR CONTINUED DANISH MEMBERSHIP REGARDLESS OF A
BRITISH DECISION HAS BEEN OPENLY STATED AND THEN RIGHT FROM THE
TOP, BY THE PRIME MINISTER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, REFERENDUMS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COPENH01594
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750195-0337
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750679/aaaacttk.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 FEB 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DANISH PRIME MINISTER WANTS DENMARK TO STAY IN EC WITH OR WITHOUT UK
TAGS: EGEN, DA, UK, EEC, (JORGENSEN, ANKER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006